

091869755

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
20 July 2000 (20.07.2000)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number

WO 00/41654-A3

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: A61F 2/44, 2/46

(21) International Application Number: PCT/US00/00590

(22) International Filing Date: 11 January 2000 (11.01.2000)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
60/115,388 11 January 1999 (11.01.1999) US

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(81) Designated States (national): AE, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW.

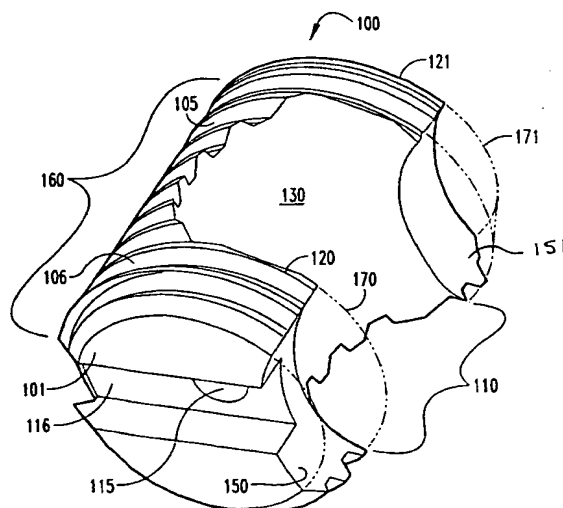
(84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

— with international search report

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(54) Title: TRUNCATED OPEN INTERVERTEBRAL SPACERS



(57) Abstract: Open chambered spacers, implanting tools and methods are provided. The spacers (100) include a body (105) having a wall (106) which defines a chamber (130) and an opening (131) in communication with the chamber (130). In one embodiment the wall (106) includes a pair of arms (120, 121) facing one another and forming a mouth (110) to the chamber (130). Each of the arms has an end configured to form a region within which an adjacent spacer can nest. In one aspect the body (105) is a bone dowel comprising an off-center plug from the diaphysis of a long bone. The tool (300) includes spacer engaging means for engaging a spacer and occlusion means for blocking an opening defined in the spacer. In some embodiments, the occlusion means (320) includes a plate (321) extendible from the housing (305). In one specific embodiment the plate (321) defines a groove (322) which is disposed around a fastener (330) attached to the housing (305) so that the plate (321) is slideable relative to the housing (305).

WO 00/41654 A3



— *with amended claims*

Date of publication of the amended claims: 7 February 2002

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:
7 September 2001

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

AMENDED CLAIMS

[received by the International Bureau on 7 September 2000 (07.09.00);
original claim 36 amended; remaining claims unchanged (1 page)]

with an interior and exterior surface, at least one of said surfaces of said plate being curved, said occlusion member configured to span to a distal end of the spacer.

37. The tool of claim 36, further comprising a fastener
5 attached to said shaft and wherein said plate defines a groove, said groove disposed around said fastener so that said plate is slidable relative to said housing.

38. The tool of claim 37, wherein said plate has a curved
10 superior surface which approximates the outer surface of the spacer when said spacer engaging means is engaged to the spacer and said occlusion member is blocking the opening of the spacer.